

Spiritual Warfare
‘The Sword of the Spirit’
Part 7

Ephesians 6:17- ‘And the Sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God.’

Spiritual battles are just like natural battles: nations do not engage in warfare constantly; they fight when a problem comes along. The soldiers return home, experience a time of peace and refreshing, and don’t fight until there is a reason to fight.

This teaching on spiritual warfare is not for the purpose of sending anyone out looking for devils/demons behind or in every situation. It is for the purpose of preparing you that when you encounter warfare with either your flesh or the enemy of your soul that you will be ready.

Battles will come, but not necessarily every day.

‘The sword of the Spirit’ is one of the most aggressive of the offensive weapons God has given to His church.

Various swords of the roman soldier-

Five different types:

- 1. Gladius- extremely heavy, broad shouldered, long bladed sword. This was the most beautiful of all swords, but because of its weight, was the most cumbersome/awkward to use.**

Referred to ‘As the two – handled sword; because it took both hands to use it. Two handed and swung with all one’s might.

Sharpened on only one edge; the other side was blunt/dull.

The history of this sword for the Roman’s was that after they were terribly beaten by the Carthaginians, they abandoned the use of it, to adapt a more easily wielded weapon. Actually used in training to build up their strength.

- 2. Second weapon- A shorter, narrower sword; approx. 17 inches long – two ½ inches wide; much lighter, so easier to carry & swing.**

3. **Third weapon-** Even shorter than this second one. Looked more like a dagger than a sword.
Carried in a small, hidden scabbard beneath the soldiers' outer coat; used to inflict a mortal wound into the heart of the enemy.
4. **Fourth weapon-** a long, slender weapon used primarily by the cavalry. Like the modern day fencing sword. Not a good sword for combat.
5. **Fifth sword-'machaira'** the type Paul mentions in Eph. 6.

Word for sword

In this text is **'machaira'** (*ma-chi-ra*)

A 19-inch weapon, razor sharp on both sides of the blade.

Because both sides were razor sharp, this was the most dangerous/deadly of all swords.

At the end of the sword the blade was turned upwards, creating an extremely sharp/deadly tip.

This sword was designed to create a wound far greater than any other sword. The Roman soldier was taught to thrust this sword into his enemy in short stabs, hold the sword with both hands and twist/wrenching the sword inside the stomach, and withdraw the sword with the entrails/guts of his enemy.

It was intended to not only kill the enemy, but also rip his insides to shreds. It was a weapon of murder.

Too graphic? This is what the Holy Spirit gave Paul to use to describe 'the sword of the Spirit' we are called on to equip ourselves with.

'The sword of the Spirit' = **'Rhema'**

Rhema?

Paul says the sword of the spirit is **The Word of God.**

'Word' taken from Grk. = **'Rhema'** is one of the most familiar words found in the N.T.

Describes something that is 'spoken clearly, in unmistakable terms, spoken vividly, undeniable language, with unquestionable, certain, definite terms.'

'A quickened word'- such as a word of Scripture, or a word from the Lord that the Holy Spirit supernaturally drops into one's mind, causing it to come alive and impart special power to the believer.

This is a work of the Holy Spirit where the believer **really knows**, he has heard from the Lord.

John 14: 26- 'But the comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said to you.'

It is when the Holy Spirit, Himself, drops a 'word' into our hearts or supernaturally reminds us of a verse, promise, which floods our hearts with faith to believe Him in a situation.

Quickened at a specific time for a specific purpose
Gives us 'sword power' in the spirit realm.

Remember the sword & the loin-belt?-

They were inseparable, the sword rested on the clip from the loin-belt around the soldier's waist.

The loin-belt was representative of 'the written word of God'
The written word (*logos*) is the primary source for a 'Rhema' from God.

These words are given by the Holy Spirit – they are supernaturally empowered by Him to enable us to withstand the mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical attacks of the adversary.

Matt. 4:4-10 Jesus had Rhema in time of temptation. He had studied/internalized the scriptures; & the Holy Spirit drew upon that input when He was tempted.

The sword of the Spirit is the sword that the Spirit yields!!
This is the Holy Spirit's rebuff to the devil's attempt to penetrate the mind with slanderous lies & accusations.

The written word, the Bible, is like the *gladius* sword, like a broad-shouldered, extremely heavy blade.

This sword is capable of making a sweeping blow against the enemy.

But, there are times we need a specific word, a smaller, two-edged sword - to deal a fatal blow to our attacker.

We need to stab the enemy - this requires a Rhema, or specific quickened word.

Examples of those receiving 'Rhema' from the Lord-

Many in history have done remarkable things for God by obeying a simple, single, word from God-

1. **Noah- Gen. 6:13-7:4; received a short word from God that saved him & his household from destruction.**

Quite brief & simple word in comparison to the ramifications of the flood & history making consequences.

2. **Abraham- Gen. 12:1-3; received a call to leave Mesopotamia and follow the Lord to a land God would show him.
3 verses, 75 words led to the establishment of the Jewish people & our life in Christ.**

3. **Joseph- Gen. 37:6-9; two short dreams spoke to him about his future, which put Joseph in a position to care for his family & fulfill God's plans.**

4. **Moses- Ex. 3-4; tending sheep on Mt. Horeb, the burning bush experience, where God revealed his plan to use Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.**

5. **Mary- mother of Jesus; in Luke 2: 28-33, 35-37. Received 'Rhema' and surrendered herself to the lord. Only 8 verses long (the most important part).**

6. **Paul- various times received specific direction from the Holy Spirit: Acts 9:4-6; 10-16; 21:11; 23:11.**

By obeying simple, single words from the Lord, men & women of God have altered history.

They are the reason we enjoy our spiritual blessings today.

They ‘stabbed’ the domain of darkness by responding to a word they heard from God concerning the purpose of their lives.

In many cases the ‘Rhema’ we need will come right out of the Bible, as the Holy Spirit causes that verse(s) to leap off the pages at you & fill you with power to release your faith.

The two-edged sword-

This phrase appears in the New Testament-

- **Eph. 6:17**
- **Rev. 1:16**- John received his vision of Jesus on the Isle of Patmos, ‘and He had in his right hand seven stars; and out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword...’

A sharp two-edged sword came out of Jesus’ mouth.

The phrase ‘two-edged’ from Grk. Word ‘*distomos*’ (*di-sto-mos*), = very odd word.

Compound word from ‘*di*’ = ‘two’ & ‘*stomos*’ = **‘one’s mouth’**

This describes something that is **‘two-mouthed.’**

The ‘two – edged sword’ is really a ‘two - mouthed sword’

Rev. 1:16 could actually read ‘and out of his mouth went a sharp two-mouthed sword.’

Rev. 2:12- ‘these things says He which has the sharp sword with two edges’ Same word= ‘two mouthed.’

Hebrews 4:12- ‘For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged [distomos, mouthed] sword.’

What is the difference between a ‘two – edged sword’ & a ‘two – mouthed sword’?

Remember the difference between the types of swords the Romans had used?

The two-edged sword was designed to pierce the armor and into the stomach/heart of the enemy, with the curved tip that would rip the entrails out of a man, leaving him totally defenseless, never to bother you again.

The Word of God is just like that; a sword sharp on both sides, cutting both ways and doing terrible damage.

One sharpened edge of this sword came into being when the Word of God first initially proceeded from the mouth of God.

The second edge of this sword is added when the word of God proceeds out of your mouth.

This is why it is called the ‘two – edged [mouthed] sword’.

When the biblical writers first recorded the inspired Word of God, it was a one – mouthed sword, it only had come out of one mouth at the time.

It was a sword & a mighty one, but it had only come out of one mouth.

It was like the *gladius sword*, sharp on one side, when swung it would do damage.

But as we are & should take the word into our spirit, willingly mediate on it and give it a place of priority, we take the steps to give the word a second edge.

The Holy Spirit is able to reach down into that reservoir of the Word of God in us and pull verses/truths/promises out of our inner man to fill our minds & come out of our mouths to become a two-mouthed sword against the adversary.

First, the powerful word passed through the mouth of God, giving it a sharp edge.

Second, the word rises up in our spirit, permeates our understanding, and proceeds out of our mouths, giving it the second edge.

Agreement with God.

Meditation & Confession-

It takes meditation to get the Word of God into our spirit.

As we meditate on God's Word, it has eyes to get into our spirit man and bring it into conformity with the plans/will of God for our lives.

The word renovates, renews, recreates, what God intended to be in us.

Heb. 4:13- 'Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight; but all things are naked and opened to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.'

Meditating on God's Word releases its dividing & discerning work inside us. Ignoring the Word of God leaves us in a position where our wrong thinking and bondages from the past exert authority over us.

This Word is like a divine blade, slices right to the heart of the matter of soul, spirit, joints & marrow, correctly discerning the thoughts & intents of the heart.

Power to inwardly change us. Filling us with faith. Rom. 10:17.

Your renewed mind will cooperate with your faith, and you can speak the Word of God with authority/boldly.

Too many times we have spoken the Word before it has done its life transforming work in us, no root, hastily mimicking what someone else has paid the price to be able to do. We have no personal revelation yet.

But, when we have meditated on the Word and it has been internalized we then can speak that Word, it will release a tremendous spiritual power to do what God created that word to do.

This is what it means by using the sword of the Spirit; it is equivalent of raising a two-edged sword.

The Holy Spirit reaches into that reservoir of scripture, quickens a verse(s), it comes up from your inner man, past your mind, through your mouth.

As it proceeds out of your mouth, a second deadly edge is miraculously added.

That word then becomes the two-edged or two – mouthed sword of the lord

You cannot just have the Word in you, & be satisfied to keep it in you; it must be spoken out to become effective.

Notice from those verses in Revelation that Jesus had a sword that came out of his mouth; not His hand.

How to hear from God:

Remember the loin-belt had the clip, which held the scabbard for the sword. So the sword hinged entirely on the loin-belt. (The Word of God)

Your Rhema, the word needed from God, hinges entirely upon the presence or absence of the written word of God, the Bible, in your life.

The Rhema we need to receive will be received because we have the written word of God within us.

God speaks through His Word- or else why did He waste the time to have it recorded, protected through the ages?

The sword of the Spirit hangs from the loin-belt. So if you want a sword of the Spirit, you have to get in the Word, & let it get in you.

The Spirit of God will bring into your spirit exactly what you need when you need it, as long as you have put the written Word in.

As you study, meditate, pray over the Word of God & it becomes part of you, the Holy Spirit will exercise His option to use those truths as a sword against the enemy.

Psalm 119:130- ‘The entrance of Your Word gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.’

Isa. 8:20- Speaks about false prophets- ‘to the law and to the testimony. **If they do not speak according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them.’**

When people do not have the Word of God, they do not have light.

Jesus' example-

Is He not our example of how to fight this fight of faith, who has gone before us leaving us an example of how we can conquer in His name????

Matt. 4:1-3 how did Jesus answer satan?

V-4: 'it is written...' The Holy Spirit, who had filled Jesus at His baptism of John in the Jordan, yielded a verse in due season.

He drew a picture right up out of Jesus' spirit, speaking it with great power and authority- like the mighty blade of the two-mouthed sword.

Result- satan could not stand against the truth.

Why was the Holy Spirit able to pull a sword of the Spirit, a two-mouthed sword, out of Jesus' inner man?

Because Jesus had spent time studying, meditating, praying over the Word of God!

As a child, he had been raised in the synagogue, hearing the word of God week after week.

Jesus, in his humanity, had taken the Word deep into His soul.

Notice what satan attempted-

To pull a mind game on Jesus, just like he will do to us.

"If you are the Son of God, turn these stones to bread, cast Yourself down."

Jesus had just stabbed the enemy with the two-mouthed sword of the Spirit, He had just said, 'it is written...'

How did the enemy react:

He threw the word of God right back at Jesus.

He came back at Jesus with, 'it is written...'

He started quoting Scripture at Jesus, the Living Word of God.

This is what he did to Eve in the Garden of Eden.

He quoted what God said, but put his spin of deception to it causing doubt of the Word from God.

V. 6, 7- Jesus came back again & said, 'it is written'

**Jesus had to know the Word of God or He would have been deceived.
The devil can quote the Bible better than any believer on earth.**

The fact that Jesus knew the written Word and its discerning power was at work in Him, kept Him on course when dealing with these temptations.

It is not enough to have the Word of God in your mind, head knowledge, the devil can confuse you if that is all you have.

You have to have a relationship/renewed mind/ that can discern his lies & mind games.

Remember **Heb 4:12- ‘The Word of God is a discerner of the thoughts & intents of the hearts...’**

The devil is good at teaching the Bible; he will tell you everything that’s not there to twist the truth. Look at the cults & their teachings.

After the Holy Spirit had continually drawn upon the reservoir of word in Jesus against the enemy; stabbed him with the two-mouthed sword, ‘the devil departed from him for a season.’

Conc:

- 1. When you begin to reach out into the Sprit realm to take new territory for God’s kingdom, the enemy will be there to try to stop you.**
- 2. When you began to grow in your knowledge of God’s Word & make progress, the enemy will try to slow you down.**
- 3. Most of us sit around & let the enemy batter us into giving up, being complacent, compromise-so the devil won’t make it so rough on us.**
- 4. We must not forget we have more than just defensive armor at our disposal; we have offensive weaponry too.
‘The sword of the Spirit’, but it will not work for you, unless you have done your part of learning how to use this piece of armor and get the Word of God into your head, heart, spirit.**
- 5. Remember- the sword of the Spirit, two – mouthed sword; hinges upon the presence of God’s Word in your life.**